



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BARQUIST ARMY HEALTH CLINIC
1434 PORTER STREET
FORT DETRICK, MD 21702-9210

MCXR-FTD

17 October 2008

POLICY MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Convalescent Leave (CVL)

1. **PURPOSE:** To establish standard operating procedures on Convalescent Leave at Barquist Army Health Clinic (BAHC).
2. **AUTHORITY:** Reference AR 600-8-10 • 15 February 2006
See attached excerpts for further references.
3. **PROCEDURES:**
 - a. A request for CVL (other than pregnancy) will be issued in 1 but not more than 2 week increments. A re-evaluation by the same provider who issued the original request for CVL will be conducted at the end of the original CVL period. If additional recuperation is required at home and no form of limited duty can be accomplished, another extension for CVL will be requested for 1 but not more than 2 weeks again. This pattern will continue until the Service Member is returned to at least limited duty.
 - b. Regardless of the request by a civilian provider, the above will stand. The MTF Commander will be the POC if there are extenuating or ambiguous circumstances. The intent is to safely return the Service Member to at a minimum, a limited duty status. The goal is to facilitate unit mission accomplishment while ensuring the safe and rapid recovery of the Service Member. It is noted that some Service Members may not receive the entire length of time requested by Civilian Providers. In the case of a request for CVL by another MTF Provider not affiliated with BAHC, should the unit or service member bring the request to the attention of Barquist Army Health Clinic, the same will apply.
 - c. Note that Unit Commander's are the approving authority for CVL of up to 30 days if the Service Member is not hospitalized (if hospitalized in a MTF, either the MTF Commander or Unit can issue CVL). Regardless of hospitalization status, the MTF Commander is the only approving authority for CVL greater than 30 days (42 days for pregnancy).

d. Wearing of a cast, use of crutches, or other forms of braces, does not constitute reasons to remain on CVL. CVL should only be granted when a patient would be harmed by being at work.

/ Original Signed /
Jeffrey C. Leggit MD
LTC, MC
COMMANDER

Excerpt from AR after hospitalization.

Task: Granting Convalescent Leave When Soldiers Return to Unit after Hospitalization.

5–3. Rules to use convalescent leave.

- a. *Convalescent leave is a non-chargeable absence from duty granted to expedite a soldier's return to full duty after illness, injury, or childbirth.*
- b. *The hospital commander or designee is the approval authority for convalescent leave for 30 days or less (42 days after normal pregnancy and childbirth). Only hospital commanders will approve convalescent leave in excess of 42 days after childbirth when a soldier is assigned or attached to the medical holding unit (AR 40–3, para 9–2) during one continuous period of hospitalization. If the soldier is not hospitalized, unit commander is the approval authority (para 5–5).*
- c. *The unit commander is the approval authority for up to 30 days convalescent leave (42 days after normal pregnancy and childbirth) for a soldier returning to duty after illness or injury (para 5–7).*
- d. *The approval authorities establish procedures for granting convalescent leave.*
- e. *Hospital commanders are the only approval authority for requests in excess of 30 days (or in excess of 42 days for childbirth).*

Excerpt From AR for illnesses not requiring Hospitalization (this is the overwhelming majority of cases for Fort Detrick)

Task: Granting Convalescent Leave When Soldiers Return to Unit after Illness or Injury

5–7. Rules to grant convalescent leave when soldiers return to unit after illness or injury.

- a. *Unit commanders may grant up to a maximum of 30 days convalescent leave during one continuous period to soldiers who have been returned to duty after illness or injury. This period is extended to 42 days following pregnancy and childbirth. (Beyond 42 days, hospital commander is the only approval authority.)*
- b. *Prior to approval—*
 - 1) *Obtain supporting recommendation from physician.*
 - 2) *Verify what, if any, convalescent leave soldier has had while assigned or attached to hospital, only that portion is authorized which, when added to hospital-approved leave, will not exceed 30 days or 42 days if the reason is pregnancy and childbirth.*
 - 3) *Require confirmation of attending physician's recommendation for convalescent leave from the hospital commander having administrative responsibility, if desirable.*